



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

18 September 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: September 14, 2006

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified from Pinellas to Collier Counties. Patchy high impacts are possible today through Wednesday in Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee Counties. Moderate impacts are possible today through Wednesday in northern Collier County. Very Low impacts are possible today through Wednesday in southern Collier County. On Thursday, patchy low impacts are possible from Pinellas to Lee Counties, patchy very low impacts are possible in northern Collier County, and no impacts are expected in southern Collier County.

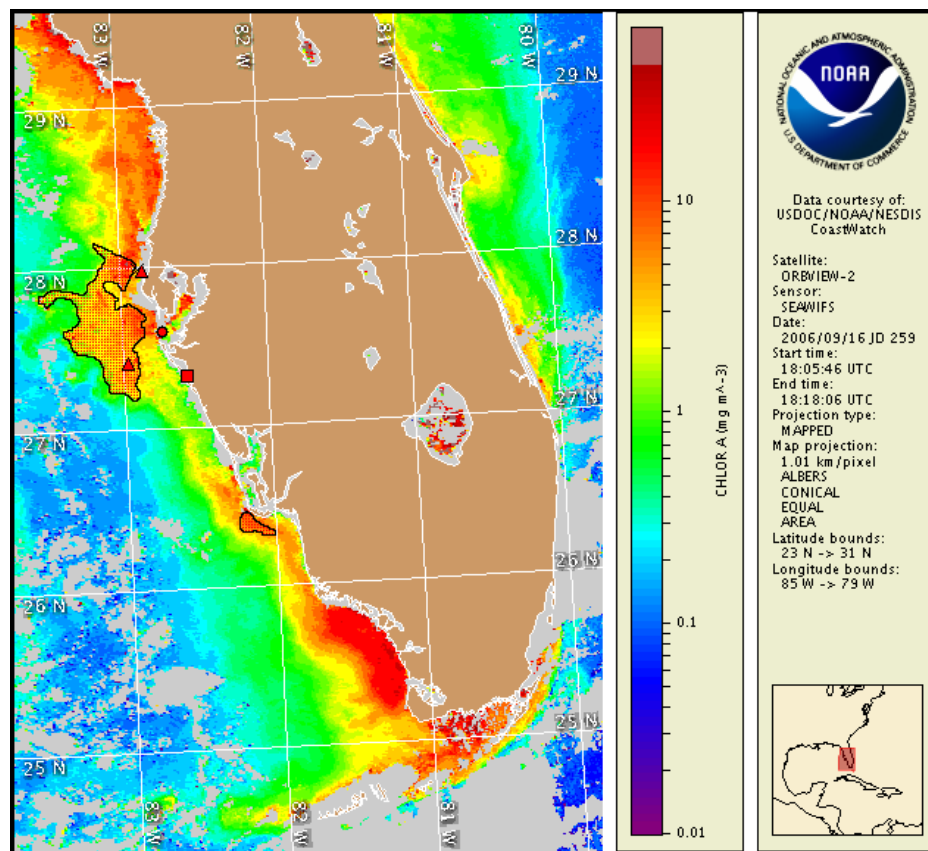
Analysis

The harmful algal bloom persists off the coast of southwest Florida. A sample taken on 9/14 (FWRI) at Englewood Beach containing a high level of *Karenia brevis* shows that the bloom has strengthened in Charlotte County. A sample taken on 9/14 (FWRI) with a very low *Karenia brevis* level confirms that the bloom is as far south as South Marco Beach. Transport models indicate no net alongshore transport of the bloom from 9/13 to 9/18. Imagery from 9/16 indicates chlorophyll concentrations $>12 \mu\text{g/L}$ off of Sanibel Island at 26.467° , -82.217° ; $>7 \mu\text{g/L}$ west of the mouth of Tampa Bay at 27.683° , -82.933° ; and $>16 \mu\text{g/L}$ south of Marco Island at 25.7° , -81.65° . Weak southward along-shore transport of the bloom is possible over the next few days.

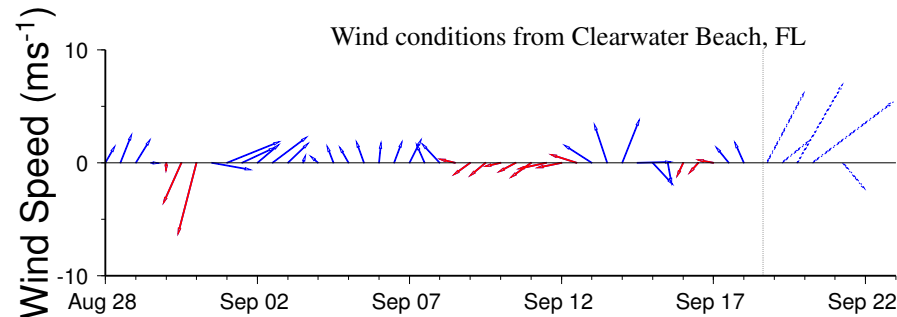
Bronder, Keller

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1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive OrbImage approval via the CoastWatch Program.

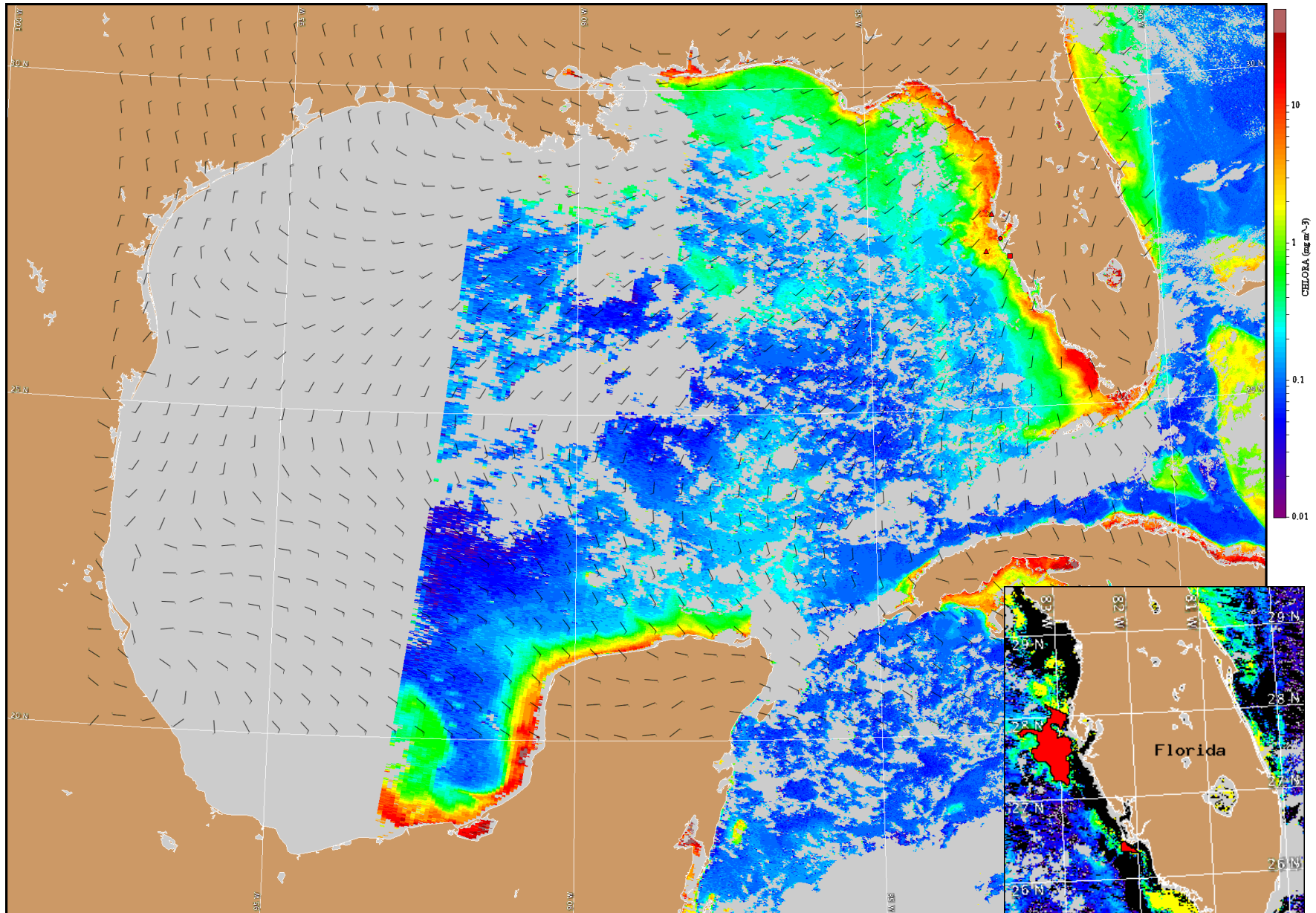


Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from September 8 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

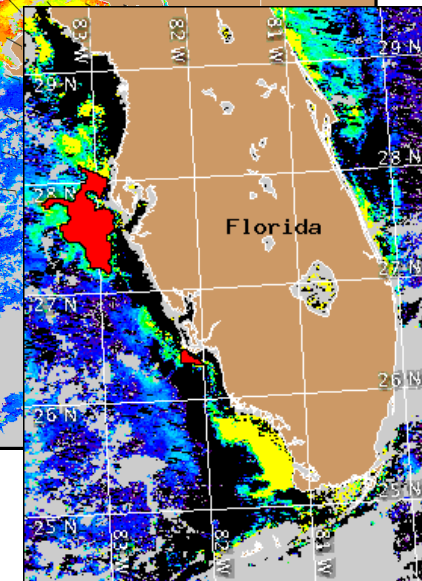


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Winds will be southwest (15 kts, 8 m/s) today and tomorrow, northwest (20 kts, 10 m/s) Wednesday, and northeast (10 kts, 5 m/s) Thursday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for September 19, 2006 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from September 8 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Verified HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

